

IMAGING AT:

Underground

A LITTLE ABOUT UNDERGROUND...

Underground is a medium size heavy civil and utility construction company based in Benicia, CA. They are a part of Quanta, an SEC company comprised of 38 subsidiaries.

HOW IMAGING MET UNDERGROUND:

Underground's controller had met and talked with Larry McAdams, president of Construction Imaging Systems at Computer Guidance Conferences in 1998 and 1999 and was intrigued by the products that his company offered. She knew that after 65 years of operation that they were drowning in paper and archives. She also saw many other possibilities that could be added down the road.

WHAT WAS UNDERGROUND'S FIRST REQUEST?

A lot of time was spent creating reports, binding, filing and then finding room to store them. Employees would spend even more time looking for stored reports and then refiling them in the correct place (hopefully).

HOW CONSTRUCTION IMAGING SYSTEMS FIXED THE PROBLEM:

Construction Imaging Systems' "COLD STORAGE" (Computer Output to Laser Disk) product was budgeted and approved for their new accounting system CGC on the AS400 in 1999. After the accounting implementation dust had settled, an engineer came out in mid-2000 and within three days, had it loaded and fully operational, including formatting/creating many reports. Accounting data could now go to a spool file where it is grabbed and archived. The result works transparently in the background and automatically through an engine; permanent storage on media -- not paper. No fuss, no muss and done with no Underground IT person!

Underground Fast Facts:

- Location: Benicia, CA
- Contractor: Civil & Utility
- Implementation Date:
01-01-2000
- System Payback:
Less than 12 Months
- Accounting Software:
CGC





“Imaging is fast and effective when needing real time information to answer questions.”

Phey Andres – Payroll Supervisor

HOW ELSE COULD IMAGING HELP UNDERGROUND?

Underground was finding it difficult to meet the time sensitive demands of their parent company. Their traditional invoice delivery process was holding them up. They were finding that “Overnight” delivery was turning into days and even weeks. Also invoices were getting lost at the job site and last minute scrambling was done to get a duplicate copy of the invoice. They knew that the solution had to be no less than a process change. They needed to route, track and process AP better!

CONSTRUCTION IMAGING SYSTEMS HAD THE SOLUTION:

The implementation of Invoice Router was the answer to their needs. Invoice Router is an imaging workflow solution that allows users to route, approve, and enter invoices into the computer system. Users can also check the status of an invoice, view it’s history and re-route it for changes.

HOW QUICK WAS INVOICE ROUTER IMPLEMENTED?

By the last week of January 2001, Construction Imaging Sys-

tems had the software pre-programmed; the equipment was delivered to Underground and AP was ready to go... An engineer arrived on Monday and the install went like a well-oiled machine. The servers were loaded and the software was ready to distribute to all the users. By the end of the week, Underground had a functional imaging workflow: servers, scanner, about 60 client stations loaded and the AP staff and key others were trained.

The game plan was to use it for a few weeks and then an engineer would come back to tweak it. It’s hard to anticipate all the nuances in processing day-to-day items, but based on a few weeks of “pre-live” usage, you find what works and what needs to be changed. An engineer returned to provide secondary tweaking so Underground could work with it a few more weeks before going live. However, they found that the system was so easy to use and they needed so few changes that by the time the engineer left that week, they were live. A total of three weeks and a new process in place! It doesn’t get much better than that. They designated their AP Supervisor to be the lead person in learning the system, both backwards and forwards, and to be the resource for the other users.



OLD STORAGE



NEW STORAGE

The space to store documents at Underground was running out. With imaging, they have all the space the need!